

dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , of greater than one, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member such that the traction between the sheave and tension member moves the car and counterweight.

672/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the tension member further includes a plurality of individual load carrying ropes encased within a common layer of coating, the coating layer separating the individual ropes and defining the engagement surface for the tension member.

666/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the traction surface is contoured to complement the engagement surface of the tension member such that traction between the traction sheave and tension member is enhanced.

669/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the traction surface is contoured to complement the engagement surface of the tension member to guide the tension member during engagement with the traction sheave.

723/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the traction surface includes a diameter D , and wherein the diameter D varies laterally to provide a guidance mechanism during engagement of the tension member and traction sheave.

76/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the traction sheave includes a pair of retaining rims on opposite sides of the traction sheave.

723/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, including a plurality of the tension members.

723/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the traction sheave includes a traction surface for each tension member, and further includes one or more dividers that separate the plurality of traction surfaces.

94/ The traction drive according to Claim 1, further including a guidance device disposed proximate to the traction sheave, the guidance device engaged with the tension member to position the tension member for engagement with the traction sheave.

95/ 10. The traction drive according to Claim 9, wherein the guidance device includes a roller engaged in rolling contact with the tension member.

96/ 11. The traction drive according to Claim 9, wherein the traction surface is formed from a non-metallic material.

97/ 12. The traction drive according to Claim 6, wherein the tension member is formed from a non-metallic material.

98/ 13. The traction drive according to Claim 2, wherein the ropes are formed from non-metallic material.

99/ 14. The traction drive according to Claim 2, wherein the coating layer is formed from elastomer.

100/ 15. The traction drive according to Claim 1, wherein the tension member further includes a coating layer that defines the engagement surface, and wherein the coating layer is formed from elastomer.

101/ 16. The traction drive according to Claim 11, wherein the traction surface is formed from polyurethane.